

CENTRACANTHIDAE FOWLER, 1925 (1829): PROPOSED  
PRESERVATION AS A FAMILY-GROUP NAME (PISCES,  
PERCIFORMES). Z.N.(S.) 1821

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The two family-group names MAENIDAE and MENIDAE are similar in pronunciation but are not homonyms [Art. 55]. The names are not identical in spelling and are based on different and not identical type-genera *Maena* and *Mene*. However, due to their sounding alike some misunderstandings arise especially because both families are of the same suborder Percoidei and closely related. According to Art. 55a of the Code only homonymy between names in the family-group resulting from similarity but not identity of the names of their type-genera is to be referred to the Commission. However, the family-group name MAENIDAE has been replaced by CENTRACANTHIDAE because the nominal type-genus *Maena* proved to be a junior synonym and that is the reason for this application [Art. 40a]. The purpose of this action is to secure the validity of the family-group name CENTRACANTHIDAE and to reject the family-group name MAENIDAE. A brief statement of facts follows.

2. The family-group name MAENIDAE was established by Cuvier (1829 : 186) under the name MENIDES. This name is based on the specific name "de l'une des espèces les plus communes dans la Méditerranée, savoir, la mendole (*sparus maena* L.)." (Cuvier et Valenciennes, 1830 : 381), on which the name of the type-genus *Maena* Cuvier, 1826, was based by tautonymy. The family-group name MENIDES was latinized first as MAENIDI (Bonaparte, 1832-41) and later as MAENIDAE (Lowe, 1843 : X; Bonaparte, 1846 : 51). This was almost the only name widely used in the literature until the beginning of the fifties of this century (Moreau, 1881 : 63; Carus, 1889-93 : 617; Facciola, 1899 : 6; Regan, 1913 : 124; Jordan, 1923 : 200; Barnard, 1927 : 681; Norman, 1931 : 359; de Buen, 1926 : 105, 1935 : 120; Slastenenko, 1938 : 90; Berg, 1940 : 475; Zei, 1941 : 137, 1951 : 3; Vasiliu, 1946 : 268; Šoljan, 1948 : 368; Berg, 1949 : 1051; Cadenat, 1950 : 215; Drensky, 1951 : 198) and only in a few publications after 1961 (Golvan, 1962 : 112, Bănărescu, 1964 : 711). However, at the beginning of the fifties and even earlier the family-group name MAENIDAE had been replaced by CENTRACANTHIDAE (Fowler, 1925 : 4, 1936 : 860; Lozano y Rey, 1952 : 201; Lozano Cabo, 1953 : 9; Tortonese, 1953 : 24; Dollfus, 1955 : 64; Norman, MS : 309; Furnestin and oth., 1958 : 455; Lepori, 1959a : 155, 1959b : 88; Tortonese, 1963 : 173; Svetovidov, 1964 : 291; Trilles, 1964 : 627; Palmer and White, 1965 : 78).

3. Eight nominal genera are known within the family MAENIDAE: (1) *Centracanthus* Rafinesque (1810, Aprile : 42, 1810, Maggio : 19, 67, type-species by monotypy *Centracanthus cirrus* Rafinesque, 1810); (2) *Spicara* Rafinesque (1810, Aprile : 51, type-species by monotypy *Spicara flexuosa* Rafinesque, 1810, a junior synonym of *Sparus smarís* L.); (3) *Merolepis* Rafinesque (1810, Maggio : 25, type-species by monotypy *Sparus massiliensis* Lacépède, [1802], a junior synonym of *Sparus maena* L.); (4) *Smaris* Cuvier

(1814 : 92, 1815 : 111, 1829 : 187, type-species by tautonomy *Sparus smarís* L.); (5) *Maena* Cuvier (1829 : 186, type-species by tautonomy *Sparus maena* L.); this name has been misspelt with the reference to its author as *Mena* Cuv. by Swainson (1839 : 170, 215). As an incorrect subsequent spelling *Mena* has no status in nomenclature [Art. 32c]; (6) *Pterosmarís* Fowler (1925 : 4, type-species by monotypy *Smarís melanurus* Valenciennes, 1830); (7) *Marsis* Barnard (1927 : 682, replacement name for *Smarís* Cuvier); (8) *Coleosmarís* Norman (1931 : 359, type-species by monotypy *Coleosmarís nigricauda* Norman, 1931).

4. The authors of most of the works mentioned in para. 2, who used the family name MAENIDAE, recognized *Maena* and *Spicara* as distinct genera. The generic name *Smarís* used also by some authors is preoccupied by *Smarís* Latreille, 1796, Arachnoidea, and besides it is a junior synonym of *Spicara* Rafinesque, 1810. The generic name *Maena*, type-genus of the family MAENIDAE, was also rejected as a junior synonym of *Merolepis*. Fowler (1925, 1936) was the first who replaced the family name MAENIDAE by CENTRACANTHIDAE on this basis. He recognized the generic name *Merolepis* as a senior synonym of *Maena* and *Centracanthus* as a senior synonym of *Spicara*, *Smarís* and *Pterosmarís*. Zei (1941, 1951) established that the distinctions between *Maena* and *Spicara* were inconsiderable and both the genera were united by him under the generic name *Maena*. However, the name of the genus formed by the union of the two genera is to be the oldest valid name, namely *Spicara*. That was the second reason for replacement of the family name MAENIDAE by subsequent authors.

5. The status of the generic name *Centracanthus* is doubtful. Rafinesque's original (1810, Aprile : 42, 43) spelling of the name is *Centracantus* and this might be retained [Art. 32a]. In the subsequent work (1810, Maggio : 19) he published the generic name *Centracanthus* with the reference to the previous publication ("Raf. car. gen. 31, sp. 118") and with the same type-species, *cirrus*. The generic name *Centracantus* is not misprinted as some authors (e.g. Jordan, 1923 : 79) believe. It is evident that Rafinesque has written this generic name without an h in Italian (*Centracanto*, p. 19) as well as *Hypacantus* instead of *Hypacanthus* on the same pages of both publications. As the spelling of the generic name *Centracantus* is due to an error in translation it cannot be corrected as a justified emendation [Art. 32c]. *Centracanthus* has been employed in all the works mentioned in para. 2 and Fowler (1936 : 860) was the only one who spelled it as *Centracantus* and the family name as CENTRACANTIDAE. However, in the earlier publication (Fowler, 1925 : 4) he spelled the two names as *Centracanthus* and CENTRACANTHIDAE. Rafinesque (1810, Maggio : 67) published also the generic name *Centracantha* as a correction of his name *Centracanthus* ("In vece di *Centracanthus*. Sp. 91 leggeto *Centracantha*"). This name is a junior objective synonym of *Centracanthus* with its own date as an unjustified emendation [Art. 33a (ii)]. The Commission is asked to Rule under the plenary powers that *Centracanthus* is the correct spelling of the name.

6. A family-group name is not to be changed if a nominal type-genus on which it is based is rejected as a junior synonym after 1960 [Art. 40]. However,

the family group-name MAENIDAE was replaced by CENTRACANTHIDAE because of such synonymy before 1961, the latter won almost general acceptance and therefore it is to be maintained in the interest of stability [Art. 40a]. The adopted family-group name CENTRACANTHIDAE is to be considered the senior synonym of the rejected name, MAENIDAE [Art. 40b], with its own author and date, followed by the date of the replaced name in parenthesis, i.e. Fowler, 1925 (1829) [Rec. 40A]. However, some doubt may arise in the interpretation of the expression "general acceptance". The family-group name MAENIDAE was employed mainly before 1950, meanwhile after 1951 CENTRACANTHIDAE has been widely used in the recent systematic and also biological (Lepori, 1959a) and parasitological (Trilles, 1964) literature. It is to be noted that the family name CENTRACANTHIDAE has been accepted in the Zoological Record from 1962 (Palmer and White, 1965 : 78). However, the family-group name MAENIDAE was still employed in a few publications even after 1961 and therefore the case is referred to the Commission [Art. 40a (i)].

7. In order to avoid further instability in the nomenclature the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature is asked to take the following actions:

- (1) to use the plenary powers:
  - (a) to validate the emendation to *Centracanthus* of the generic name *Centracantus* Rafinesque, 1810, Aprile;
  - (b) to grant precedence to the family-group name CENTRACANTHIDAE Fowler, 1925 (1829) over the name MAENIDAE Cuvier, 1829;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology the family-group name CENTRACANTHIDAE Fowler, 1925 (1829), *Amer. Mus. Novit.*, 162 : 4 (type-genus: *Centracanthus* Rafinesque, 1810) (Class Pisces, Order Perciformes);
- (3) to place on the Official List of Generic names in Zoology the generic names:
  - (a) *Centracanthus* Rafinesque, 1810, Aprile, *Caratt. nuovi Gen. nuove Spec. Anim. Sicilia* : 42 (gender: masculine) (type-species by monotypy: *Centracanthus cirrus* Rafinesque, 1810, Aprile, *Caratt. nuovi generi etc.* : 43) (Class Pisces, Order Perciformes);
  - (b) *Spicara* Rafinesque, 1810, Aprile, *Caratt. nuovi generi etc.* : 51 (gender: feminine) (type-species by monotypy: *Sparus flexuosa* Rafinesque, 1810);
  - (c) *Merolepis* Rafinesque, 1810, Maggio, *Ind. ittiol. Sicil.* : 25 (gender: feminine) (type-species by monotypy: *Sparus masiliensis* Lacépède, [1802]);
- (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the following generic names:
  - (a) *Centracantus* Rafinesque 1810, Aprile, *Carratt. nuovi generi etc.* : 42 (Ruled under the plenary powers in (1) above to be an invalid original spelling for *Centracanthus* Rafinesque, 1810);
  - (b) *Centracantha* Rafinesque, 1810, Maggio, *Ind. ittiol. Sicil.* : 67 (an invalid emendation of *Centracanthus* Rafinesque, 1810, Aprile);

- (c) *Smaris* Cuvier, 1814, *Bull. Soc. Philom. Paris* : 2 (a junior homonym of *Smaris* Latreille, 1796);
- (5) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology the family-group name CENTRACANTIDAE Fowler (H. W.), 1936, *Mar. Fish. W. Africa*, 2 : 860 (type-genus: *Centracanthus* Rafinesque, 1810) (an Invalid Spelling for CENTRACANTHIDAE Fowler, 1929);
- (6) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the specific names:
- (a) *cirrus* Rafinesque, 1810, *Aprile, Caratt. nuovi generi* etc. : 42, as published in the binomen *Centracantus cirrus* (type-species of *Centracanthus*);
- (b) *smaris* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 278, as published in the binomen *Sparus smaris*;
- (c) *maena* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 278, as published in the binomen *Sparus maena*.

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